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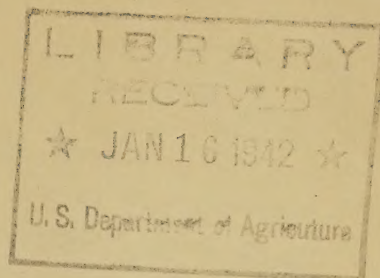
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

U.S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Milwaukee, Wisconsin



PRODUCE FOOD FOR FREEDOM

Protect Your Soil—Increase Farm Income

Your part in the 1942 Food for Freedom Program may put a needless strain on your soil unless you use your land properly and apply soil conservation practices where they are needed. By farming the conservation way, you can help produce the desired food without hurting your land.

The first fundamental of soil conservation is PROPER USE OF THE LAND.

Level and gently sloping land can be used for the production of grain and cultivated crops. Land which is too sloping for cultivation or subject to serious erosion can be used for hay or pasture. Pasture is your cheapest feed.

Seriously eroded, steep, or poor sandy land and unproductive soils should be kept in permanent grass or trees. Some steep grassland can be used for hay or pasture if not cut or grazed too closely.

Below are simple soil conservation practices which will assist in conserving soil.

Good Pasture is Cheapest Feed

- I. In all cases, allow grass to make 4 inches of growth before pasturing in the spring, and never graze too short.
- II. Improve your pasture by renovation.
 - Lime, if needed, to grow alfalfa or sweetclover.
 - Disk or spring-tooth thoroughly on the contour.
 - Seed a legume-grass mixture containing alfalfa, sweetclover, or lespedeza before grain-seeding time in the spring.
 - Pasture legume mixtures after they are 8 to 12 inches high. Then practice controlled grazing, leaving several inches of growth in the fall. Use supplementary pastures to relieve permanent pastures. Second-year sweetclover should be grazed heavily early in the spring.
 - Tests show that renovation gives a substantial increase in production, often doubling and tripling production, and a longer grazing period.
- III. Clip weeds at blooming time.
- IV. Manure permanent pastures, covering as many acres as possible each year.

Conserve Cropland While Producing

- I. Improve your soil.
 - Lime acid soils.
 - Use commercial fertilizer where its application will increase yields and improve quality.

Seed sweetclover for green manure in all grain on nonacid or limed soils where corn is to follow the next year.

Apply barnyard manure and return all cornstalks, stubble, and other crop residue to the soil.

II. Soil-conserving rotations are most profitable.

Use rotations containing 1 or more years of grass-legume meadows. Steeper slopes or less productive soils will yield a larger total if in hay or pasture one-half or more of the time.

III. Hold soil and water on hillsides.

Contour the crop lands subject to erosion. Where not practical to farm on contour, use rotations with more hay and pasture.

Contour strip-crop where practical.

Terrace long slopes up to 10 percent on which adequate terrace outlets are available or can be constructed and where more control is needed than is provided by contour tillage or strip-cropping.

Leave natural drainageways in sod.

IV. Soybeans.

Grow soybeans on land not subject to erosion.

On sloping land soybeans should replace corn rather than grain in the rotation and should be grown on the contour.

Wherever possible, follow soybeans with a winter crop such as winter wheat or rye.

V. Prevent wind erosion.

Plant at right angles to prevailing winds.

Leave field rough and leave some trash to prevent soil blowing.

Use field strips 10 to 20 rods wide on soils that blow.

Plant at least 4 rows of corn for every 20 rows of potatoes, and leave corn standing over winter.

Manage Woodland for Profit

I. Protect from fire and grazing.

II. Leave young thrifty trees.

III. Cut cull (crooked, dead, diseased) trees for fuel and fence posts.

IV. Cut only trees more than 18 inches in diameter for lumber.

V. Sell wood products, such as cordwood or fence posts, instead of standing timber.

These Practices Pay Dividends

Where adaptable, the soil conservation practices listed above are also good farm management practices. Farm records and accounts kept by cooperators of the Soil Conservation Service indicate that by following these recommended conservation practices it has been possible to maintain and even increase the farm income with no material increase in costs. The fact that so many farmers are adopting these practices indicates that proper land use and soil conservation practices pay good returns.

For further information on soil conservation see your nearest Soil Conservation Service office, or your county agent.